

§ 18702.5. Materiality Standard: Financial Interest in a Personal Financial Effect.

(a) A personal financial effect means the financial effect of a governmental decision on the personal finances of a public official or his or her immediate family. The financial effect is material if the official or the official's immediate family member will receive a measurable financial benefit or loss from the decision.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a personal financial effect does not include:

(1) Any establishment of or change to benefits provided under an employment or retirement policy for employees or retirees if the financial effect of the decision applies equally to all employees in the same bargaining unit or other representative group.

(2) Payment of any travel expenses, to the extent allowed by law, incurred while attending meetings as an authorized representative of an agency.

(3) Stipends received for attendance at meetings of any group or body created by law or formed by the official's agency for a special purpose, so long as the selecting body posts on its website a form provided by the Commission that includes: a list of each appointed position eligible for a stipend, the amount of the stipend for each position, the name of the public official who has been appointed to the position, the name of the public official, if any, who has been appointed as an alternate, and the term of the position.

(4) The use of any government property, such as automobiles or other modes of transportation, mobile communication devices, or other agency provided equipment for carrying out the official duties of a position, including any nominal, incidental, negligible, or inconsequential personal use while on duty.

(5) Any personal reward received by the official when using a personal charge card or membership rewards program, so long as the reward is no different from the reward offered to the public and is limited to charges made solely for the official's approved travel expenses.

(6) A decision to fill a position on the body of which the official is a member.

(c) If the governmental decision affects a business entity or real property in which the official has a financial interest, this regulation does not apply and materiality is determined under Regulation 18702.1 or 18702.2.

Note: Authority cited: Section 83112, Government Code. Reference: Section 87100, 87102.5, 87102.6, 87102.8 and 87103, Government Code.